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Dr. Leaf has shown again what can be accomplished by a thorough knowledge of geography in explaining the origin of the Homeric poetry. The highest praise is to say that *Homer and History* will enhance the reputation of the author of *Troy*.

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*Virgils Epische Technik.* By RICHARD HEINZE. Leipzig: Teubner, 1915. 8vo, pp. x+502. M. 12.

This work has now become a classic in criticism. It has arrived at its third edition; the first was published in 1902, the second in 1908. In the present issue no substantial changes have been made from the text of the second edition. The author still excuses himself from detailed treatment of the sixth book of the *Aeneid* on the ground of his perfect agreement with Norden, whose special commentary on that book is well known. Such good and well-tested wine as Heinze's needs no bush.

E. T. M.

*Roman Cursive Writing.* By HENRY BARTLETT VAN HOESEN. Princeton University Press, 1915. 8vo, pp. viii+268; plates. \$2.00 net.

This book should be included in even a limited collection of works on Latin paleography. It was originally composed as a Doctor's dissertation for Princeton University. *O si sic omnes!* After an introductory chapter in which the author recounts the history of paleographical study in this field, he proceeds to discuss in full detail the Pompeian *graffiti*, early lead tablets, Pompeian, Dacian, and Egyptian wax tablets, and then individually all of the extant papyri and ostraka that contain Roman cursive writing. The middle of the seventh century is taken as the proper *terminus ad quem* for the investigation. In the case of each document the forms of the individual letters are described and illustrated by abundant facsimiles. The book is concluded by a chapter on the history of the Roman cursive alphabet, and by appendices, one of which is an extended bibliography.

The facsimiles are from freehand drawings, and not even from tracings. It is indeed difficult to see how any photographic process of reproduction could be used for plates on which the letters are presented in alphabetically arranged groups. Facsimiles of the documents in due form are of course available in various of the well-known collections. But a brief doubt may be expressed about the possibility of accurately dating to a quarter or a third of a century on the basis of forms and abbreviations informal documents like these, especially when cases of known provenience are so few. In the bibliography a number of errors may be noted, and some works are cited in not the latest edition.

E. T. M.